



Second College Edition

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THE AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY

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of the lip of a gastropod shell. [Lat.]

Archaic. 1. An attendant or servant. 2. A rascal; knave. [ME < OFr., var. of *vas*.]

n. *Archaic.* A crowd of attendants or a disorderly rabble.

n. *Informal.* 1. A bird or animal that is troublesome or troublesome. 2. A. An obnoxious person. b. A person. [Var. of *vermin*.] **n.** 1. An oil-based paint containing an ingredient or an evaporating binder, used for painting or glossing. 2. a. The sheen resulting from the application of a varnish or like varnish. 3. A decorative appearance; outward show. **-ish-ess.** 1. To cover with varnish. 2. To give a decorative gloss or finish to. 3. To give a decorative gloss or finish to. [ME *verniss*, from *veronix*, sandarac resin, prob. < *veronix*, city in Cyrenaica.] **-varnish-** **n.** A city in Cyrenaica. **-varnish-** **v.** To give a decorative gloss or finish to several trees having milky juice.

n. *pl.* **-ies.** 1. The principal team of a university, college, or school in sports. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* A university. **-modification of UNIVERSITY.**

n. *Hinduism.* The Vedic god of the sun. [Skt. *varuna*.]

n. *pl.* **-uses.** An abnormal position of the foot. [*< Lat., crooked.*]

n. *pl.* **-ies.** 1. A layer of sediment deposited in the layers of sediment, indicating a change in the layer. 2. *< varva*, to bend < *ON*. **-ied, -ying, -des.** **-tr.** 1. To have characteristics or attributes; modify. 2. To give variety to: a program. 3. To introduce under new management. **-vary the tempo.** **-vary the range.** The temperature varied from different; deviate: vary from the norm. 3. To undergo successive changes or qualities. [ME *varien*, to vary < *Lat. variare* < *varius*, various.]

n. *pl.* **-ies.** 1. A snowshoe rabbit. 2. A small, dark-skinned, wavy-haired aboriginal people of Sri Lanka. [Sinhalese, *hunter*.]

n. *pl.* **-ies.** 1. A mounted sentinel stationed in advance of an outpost. 2. A small scouting boat used to observe and report on an opposing naval force. [*< Ital. vedetta*, alteration of *veletta* < *Sp. vela*, watch < *velar*, to watch < *Lat. vigilare*, to watch through the night.]

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vaso-dil-la-tor (vā'zō-dil-lā'tor, -dī-) *n.* An agent, as a nerve or drug, that causes vasodilation.

vaso-mo-tor (vā'zō-mō'tor) *adj.* Causing or regulating vasoconstriction or vasodilation.

vaso-pres-sin (vā'zō-prēs'in) *n.* A hormone secreted by the posterior lobe of the pituitary gland that has an antidiuretic and pressor effect. [Orig. a trademark.]

vaso-pres-sor (vā'zō-prēs'sor) *adj.* Causing a rise in blood pressure. **-n.** An agent that causes a rise in blood pressure.

vas-sal (vās'al) *n.* 1. A person who held land from a feudal lord and received protection in return for homage and allegiance. 2. A subordinate or dependent. 3. A bondman; slave. [ME < OFr. < Med. Lat. *vassallus* < *vassus*, of Celt. orig.]

vas-sal-age (vās'sal-ij) *n.* 1. The condition of being a vassal. 2. The service, homage, and fealty required of a vassal. 3. A position of subordination or subjection; servitude.

vas-t (vās't) *adj.* **-er, -est.** 1. Very great in size, number, amount, or quantity. 2. Very great in area or extent; immense. 3. Very great in degree or intensity. **-n.** *Archaic.* An immense space. [Lat. *vastus*.] **-vastly** *adv.* **-vastness** *n.*

vas-ti-tude (vās'ti-tūd) *n.* **-ity** (vās'ti-tē) *n.* Im-
tensity. [Lat. *vastitas* < *vastus*, vast.]

vas-ty (vās'ti) *adj.* **-er, -est.** *Archaic.* Vast.

vat (vāt) *n.* A large vessel, such as a tub, cistern, or barrel, used to store or hold liquids. **-tr.** *v.* **vat-ed, vat-ing, vats.** To put into or treat in a vat. [ME < OE *væt*.]

vat-dye *n.* Any of a series of dyes that produce a fast color by impregnating the fiber with a reduced soluble form that then oxidized to an insoluble form. **-vat-dyed** (vāt'did) *adj.*

vat-ic (vāt'ik) also **vat-i-cal** (-i-kəl) *adj.* Of or characteristic of a prophet; oracular. [*< Lat. vates*, seer.]

vat-i-can (vāt'i-kən) *n.* 1. The official residence of the pope in Vatican City, Italy. 2. The papal government; papacy. [*< Lat. Vaticanus*, the Vatican Hill.]

vat-i-can-ism (vāt'i-kā-niz'm) *n.* The policies and authority of the Vatican.

vat-i-cal (vāt'ik-al) *adj.* Prophetic.

vat-i-cal-nate (vāt'ik-al-nāt, vā-) *v.* **-nated, -nat-ing, -nates.** **-tr.** To prophesy; foretell. **-intr.** To be a prophet. [Lat. *vaticinari*, *vaticinatus* < *vates*, seer.] **-vat-i-cal-na-tor** *n.*

vat-i-cal-na-tion (vāt'ik-al-nā'shən, vā-) *n.* 1. The act of prophesying. 2. A prediction or prophecy.

vaude-ville (vōd'vil, vōd', vō'də-) *n.* 1. A stage entertainment offering a variety of short acts such as slapstick turns, song-and-dance routines, and juggling performances. b. A theatrical performance of this kind; variety show. 2. A light comic play that often includes songs, pantomime, and sketches. 3. A popular, often satirical song. [*< OFr. vaudeville*, short for *chanson du Vau de Vire*, song of Vau de Vire, a region in Normandy.]

vaude-vil-lan (vōd'vil-yan, vōd-, vō'də-) *n.* A person who works in vaudeville, esp. as a performer. **-vaude-vil-lan-ry** *n.*

vaud-dols (vōd'wōl) *pl.* *n.* The Waldenses. [*< Med. Lat. Waldenses*.] **-see WALDENSES.**

vault (vōlt) *n.* 1. a. An arched structure, usually of stone, brick, or concrete, forming a ceiling or roof. b. An arched covering, such as the sky, that resembles a vault. 2. A room of space with arched walls and ceiling, esp. when underground, as a cellar or storeroom. 3. A room or compartment for the safekeeping of valuables: a bank vault. 4. A burial chamber, esp. when underground. 5. *Anat.* An arched anatomical part. **-tr.** *v.* **vault-ed, vault-ing, vaults.** 1. To construct or supply with an arched ceiling; cover with a vault. 2. To build in the shape of a vault. [ME *vauite* < OFr. < Lat. *voluta*, fem. p.p. of *volvere*, to roll.]

vault (vōlt) *v.* **vault-ed, vault-ing, vaults.** **-tr.** To jump or leap over, esp. with the aid of a support such as the hands or pole. **-intr.** 1. To jump or leap, esp. with the use of the hands or a pole. 2. To accomplish something as if by leaping suddenly or vigorously: vaulted into a position of wealth.

-n. The act of vaulting; jump. [OFr. *voltier* < OItal. *voltare* < VLat. **voltitare*, freq. of Lat. *volvere*, to turn.] **-vault'er** *n.*

vault-ing (vōlt'ing) *n.* Something vaulted or arched.

vault-ing (vōlt'ing) *adj.* 1. Leaping upward or over. 2. Reaching too far; exaggerated: vaulting ambition. 3. Employed in leaping over: a vaulting pole.

vault (vōlt, vōnt) *v.* **vault-ed, vault-ing, vaults.** **-tr.** To describe in boastful terms; brag about. **-intr.** To boast; brag. **-n.** 1. A boastful remark. 2. Speech of extravagant self-praise. [ME *vautien* < OFr. *vautier* < LLat. *vaniare*, to talk frivolously < Lat. *vanus*, empty.] **-vaunt'er** *n.* **-vaunt-ingly** *adv.*

vault-cour-ier (vōnt'kōr'ē-ər, -kūr-, kūr-, vōnt'-) *n.* *Obs.* A member of an advance guard of an army. 2. A person sent in advance, as a herald. [Short for OFr. *avant-courier*: *avant*, in front & *courier*, courier.]

vav (vāv, vōv) *n.* The 6th letter of the Hebrew alphabet. See *table at alphabet* [Heb. *vāv*.]

vav-sor also **vav-sour** (vāv'sōr, -sōr-, sōr-) *n.* A feudal tenant who ranked directly below a baron or peer. [ME *vavassour* < OFr. < Med. Lat. *vavassor*, poss. contraction of *vassus vassorum*, vassal of vassals.]

V-day (vē'dā) *n.* A day of victory, as at the conclusion of a war. [V(ICTORY) DAY.]

-ve. Have: I've been invited.

Ve-a-dar (vē'ā-dār, vē'ā-) *n.* An extra month of the Hebrew year, having 29 days, added in leap years after the regular month of Adar. [Heb. *ve'adhar*, and Adar.]

veal (vēl) *n.* 1. The meat of a calf. 2. Also **wealer** (vē'lār). A calf raised to be slaughtered for food. [ME *veel* < OFr. < Lat. *viellus*, dim. of *virulus*, calf.]

vec-tor (vēk'tor) *n.* 1. *Math.* a. A quantity completely specified by a magnitude and a direction. b. A one-dimensional array. c. An element of a vector space. 2. *Pathol.* An organism that carries pathogens from one host to another. 3. A force or influence. [Lat., carrier < *vehere*, to carry.] **-vec-to-ri-al** (vēk'tōrē-əl, -tōr-) *adj.*

vector product *n.* A vector, *C*, that has magnitude equal to the product of the magnitudes of two vectors, *A* and *B*, and the sine of the angle between *A* and *B*, and that is perpendicular to the plane of *A* and *B* and in a right-handed coordinate system directed so that a right-handed rotation about *C* carries *A* into *B* through an angle not greater than 180 degrees.

vector space *n.* A set of elements of vectors that are commutative under addition, unchanged after multiplication by a field multiplicative identity, and commutative, closed, and distributive under the multiplicative operation of the field.

Ve-da (vē'də, vē-) *n.* Any of the oldest sacred writings of Hinduism, including the psalms, incantations, hymns, and formulas of worship incorporated in four collections. [Skt. *veda*, sacred knowledge, Veda.]

Ve-dan-ta (vē-dān'tə, -dān-, vā-) *n.* The system of Hindu philosophy that further develops the implications in the Upanishads that all reality is a single principle, Brahman, and teaches that the believer's goal is to transcend the limitations of self-identity and realize his unity with Brahman. [Skt. *vedānta*, essence of the Veda.] **-Ve-dan'tic** *adj.* **-Ve-dan'tism *n.*** **-Ve-dan'tist *n.***

V-E Day (vē'ē) *n.* May 8, 1945; the day of victory for the Allied forces in Europe during World War II. [V(ICTORY) IN EUROPE] DAY.]

Ved-dah also **Ved-dah** (vēd'ə) *n.* One of a small, dark-skinned, wavy-haired aboriginal people of Sri Lanka. [Sinhalese, *hunter*.]

ve-dette also **vi-dette** (vi-dēt) *n.* 1. A mounted sentinel stationed in advance of an outpost. 2. A small scouting boat used to observe and report on an opposing naval force. [*< Ital. vedetta*, alteration of *veletta* < *Sp. vela*, watch < *velar*, to watch < *Lat. vigilare*, to watch through the night.]

Ve-dic (vē'dik, vē-) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Veda or Vedas, the language in which they are written, or the Hindu culture that produced them.

vee (vē) *n.* The letter *v*.

vee-na (vē'nə) *n.* Variant of *vina*.

veep (vēp) *n.* *Slang.* 1. A vice president. 2. *Veep.* The Vice President of the United States. [Pronunciation of *V.P.*, abbr. of *vice president*.]

veer (vir) *v.* **veered, veering, veers.** **-intr.** 1. To turn aside from a course, direction, or purpose; swerve. 2. To shift in direction by a clockwise motion. Used of the wind. 3. *Naut.* To change the direction of a ship by turning away from the direction of the wind. **-tr.** 1. To alter the direction of; turn. 2. *Naut.* To change the course of (a ship) by turning away from the direction of the wind. **-n.** A change in direction; swerve. [OFr. *vire*, poss. of Celt. orig.]

veer (vir) *tr.* *v.* **veered, veering, veers.** *Naut.* To let out or release (an anchor chain, for example). [ME *veren* < MDu. *viere*.]

vee-ry (vir'ē) *n.* *pl.* **-ies.** A thrush, *Hylocichla fuscescens*, of the New World, having a reddish-brown back and an indistinctly spotted breast. [Poss. imit. of its song.]

Vega (vē'gə, vē-) *n.* The brightest star in the constellation Lyra. [Med. Lat. < Ar. *(al nāsir) al wāqī'*, the falling (vulture).]

veg-an-ism (vēj'ā-niz'm) *n.* An extreme form of vegetarianism in which no animal food or dairy products are consumed and no products derived from animals, as leather or soap, are used. [Alteration of *VEGETARIANISM*.] **-veg'an** (vēj'ān, -ān') *n.*

veg-e-ta-ble (vēj'tə-bəl, vēj'tə-) *n.* 1. a. A plant, such as the beet or spinach, cultivated for an edible part, such as the root, stem, leaf, or flower. b. The edible part of such a plant. 2. An organism classified as a plant; a member of the vegetable kingdom. 3. A person who leads a monotonous, passive, or merely physical existence. **-adj.** 1. Of, pertaining to, or derived from a plant or plants. 2. a. Suggesting or resembling a vegetable, as in passivity or dullness of existence; inactive. b. Boundlessly growing or multiplying. [*< ME, vegetative* < Med. Lat. *vegetabilis* < LLat. *enlivening* < Lat. *vegetare*, to enliven < *vegetus*, lively < *vegere*, to be lively.]

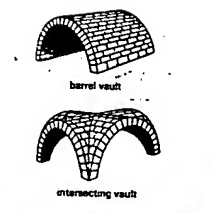
vegetable ivory *n.* A hard, ivorylike material obtained from the ivory nut and used in making small objects such as buttons.

vegetable kingdom *n.* The category of living organisms that includes all plants.

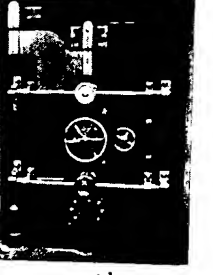
vegetable marrow *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* An edible squash having very large, elongated greenish fruit.



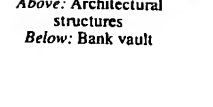
vat



barrel vault



intersecting vault



vault

Above: Architectural structures

Below: Bank vault

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